

# Worship in the Home

## Sunday after Easter



***“Come..Be a Part of Peace!”***

**2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034**

**904.261.6306 [www.poplweb.org](http://www.poplweb.org)**

**May 2, 2021**

*In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.*

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

*Please stand as able*



***Confession and Forgiveness***

In the name of the Father, and the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel or be seated for confession.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*We stand*

## THE RESURRECTION PROCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**



Devotional Music

*You might now sing or read "Now the Green Blade Rises"*

*Or, click the following link for audio presentation -*

<https://youtu.be/p9lJtV0NEbs>

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## Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: French carol

Text © Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET

11 10 10 11

## Kyrie

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
And for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.***

*For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
Let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.***

*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Amen.***

***The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.***



O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



*Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.*

**FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 22:25-31**

**To be read in responsively.**



<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the  
LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live  
forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,  
shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

**<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

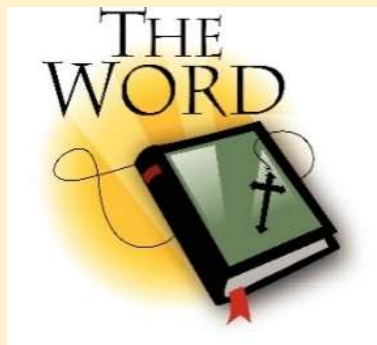


## SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**





*Please stand*

***Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.***

**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

The holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**



## SERMON—Pastor Ida Iverson

### “VINES, BRANCHES AND GRAPES”

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

As I read through the lessons today, I was struck by how many times the word ABIDE was used, six times in the Epistle and eight times in the gospel. Abide is one of those church words. You do not see it in a book you might be reading...unless it is a gothic romance or old English poetry. In the Bible it is used often, where it holds great meaning because it is about sticking with or staying put in a relationship with a person or group of people. It is to be a bond that cannot be broken.

In the Epistle lesson in verse 12 it says: ***“No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.”*** Now, here is another word that we toss around quite a bit, perfect or perfection. To paraphrase Christian Piatt in his devotional on this from Surviving the Bible, we think that perfect or perfection means without any error or never making any mistakes. When it actually comes from a Greek word, *teleios* and it means “fully developed”, “full-grown”, or “complete in all its parts”. In this way, perfection is more accurately understood as the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of all its parts.

So, if God is abiding with us and we are abiding with God then in the same fashion we are abiding in Jesus and he is abiding with us. There is then a fully developed, full-grown, and complete relationship happening, especially as we think about all that it entails to have such a relationship.

That, to me, brings us to the vineyard and the vine grower, the vine, the branches, and the clusters of grapes, the fruit. They go together; they are complete in all its parts. If you are missing any aspect, you will never end up with the wine. Wine was an essential staple in the diet of the time since water was not always readily available or many times it was polluted.

Now, many of us here have come from different parts of the country and it can be amazing how water tastes. There might be a reason that down here in the South for many people the beverage of choice is sweet tea...anything to take away the nasty taste of the water. It could be that sweet tea is the equivalent of the wine of Jesus' time and for other regions in the world where wine has had a long history in the culture.

But I digress. Back to the lessons now. If you were here last week, we had Jesus who said that he was the good shepherd and he cared and protected the sheep of his fold. Now, today his words are giving us another picture of who he is and who else he is since he says his Father is the vine grower and how we are joined together. If you remember I talked about the shepherd's staff and how it would be used to poke and prod the sheep along to keep them together. Today you could say we have another instrument that is used to keep order and how there is a need to prune the branches or the old cane for new growth to take place. This might be where there is good news as well. Since there is only pruning going on not uprooting and destroying the vine or the entire vineyard.

There is a lot to caring for a vineyard. Many years ago, I learned on a tour of a vineyard that Thomas Jefferson brought vines from France more than once to create his own vineyard. He would transplant them, it would look like they took root, but the next year they would wither and die. He did not discover what caused this to happen, but it was discovered later that there was an insect or worm that would attack the root and kill them. So, why do we have so many vineyards today in this country with many of the same vines that you would find in Europe? It is because they have been grafted onto wild vines in the regions, and they are able to grow and flourish giving us wonderful regional wines that vie with the imported wines from around the world.

Ok, now what does all that have to do with abiding and who we are? Here is another question that might bring us to seeing how it fits together. How has our vineyard been doing over this past year? Have we been abiding or have our branches been withering and ready to die or have our branches just been pruned to make them bear more fruit? I know my answer to that question, but what do any of you have to say about it? I'll wait.

My answer is that we have been abiding and that our branches have just been pruned. Yes, even though this congregation, which is far from some mega church, we truly are part of the Father's vineyard. We believe that Jesus is the vine and each one who is a part of this place, whether grafted on a long time ago, recently grafted on, or maybe just being grafted on now. We are doing what is expected of our branch making grapes...being the fruit of the vine. Yes, this little congregation could not have done what we have done over the past year if we had not abided in Jesus and him in us as the Holy Spirit to blow through giving us the fertilizer you might say that allowed us to be willing to step out of our comfort zones make new wine.

Now, may God the vine grower who continues to abide with us and us with him prune and strengthen us. May Jesus who abides with us and us with him remain the strong vine that supports our branches so as our faith grows, so too will our branches bear much fruit as we continue to fully develop and be complete in all our parts in the vineyard. Amen.

## Hymn of The Day

*You might now sing or read "There in God's Garden"*

*Or, click the following link for audio presentation -*

<https://youtu.be/p9IJtV0NEbs>

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## There in God's Garden

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,  
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"  
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;  
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:  
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;  
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.  
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!

Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -  
see there the ten - drills of our hu - man  
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -  
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your

pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.  
self - hood feed on its life blood.  
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.  
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

Text © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Music © 1987 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

SHADES MOUNTAIN

11 11 11 5

## **Nicene Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Then read the prayers of intercession, as follows.*



### Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You have created the heaven and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your aiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful, providing for the needs of all. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Allan Johnson, Ann West, Alexandra Williams, Don Weiss, Zoia Foster, Donna Cormier, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, Lloyd Cotner, Tammy & Greg Olive, all those who serve in the military, any dealing with the Covid-19,

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Help our community in our life together, giving us strong branches that bear an abundance of fruit for the harvest. As we continue on with the challenges of the day let us be open to new opportunities, while filling us anew with your Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Loving Shepherd, you bring joy of life, be with John Harris, Savannah Hamrick, Ted Wessel, Tanya Adin, Ted Mandrick and Rich Ekwall as they celebrate their birthdays this week along with Bryce & Katie Cubbal as they celebrate their anniversary.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy.

**Amen**



Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



## **Lords Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

*Then speak the Blessing:*

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
surround and sustain you,  
keep you from harm,  
and fill you with courage.

**Amen.**





## Sending Hymn

### *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

*Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing*

<https://youtu.be/Prthhmly0Gg>

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus

742



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3 Are we weak and heav-y - lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?  
Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so-lace there.

## DISMISSAL

Jesus said, You will be my witnesses  
**to the ends of the earth**

I chose you and appointed you  
**to bear fruit that will last.**

Remember, I will be with you always,  
**to the end of time.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the  
good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### Readings of the Week:

**Fifth Sunday of Easter** Acts 8:26-40, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

**Sixth Sunday of Easter** Acts 10:44-48, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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Ramshaw

# IN NEED OF PRAYER

*We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

## **Osprey Village**

Jane Cotner - Room 3106  
Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

## **Savannah Grand**

Jo Kruer - Room 332  
Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit

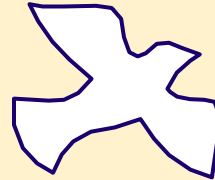
## **Brooks Rehab**

Lloyd Cotner Rm.#136

## **At Home**

Emmy Lou Sorum / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Lloyd Cotner /  
Orv Lind / Lucy Creel / Gertie Schreffler / Blake Carter / Ann West / Alexandra Williams /  
Allan Johnson

Family of Freida McClure at her death.



Luke Ellison, Army National Guard, Syria (nephew of Mark & Susan Foutz)  
Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer)  
Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA  
Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade  
(daughter of Sue Whitman)

### **Components of an Effective Prayer**

<b><u>A</u></b>	ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
<b><u>C</u></b>	CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
<b><u>T</u></b>	THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
<b><u>S</u></b>	SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

### **Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...**

*Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.  
We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.*